

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Lee et al.
Serial No.: TBA
Filed: 7/16/03
For: Rapid Aerogel Production
Process

Group Art Unit: 1712
Examiner: R. Lovering

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 16, 2003

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please cancel claims 22, 23, 25-27, 32-35, 37-40, 41, 43-46, and 47 before calculating the filing fee due for this application.

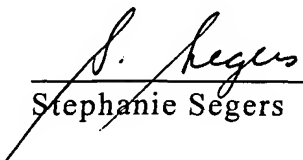
Please amend Claim 24 to read:

24. (amended) (The method of Claim 22,) A method for reducing the time required to exchange a solvent liquid located within a gel with a supercritical extracting fluid in a means for performing the exchange during the preparation of an aerogel, comprising providing the solvent liquid within the gel at a temperature no more than 10°C below the critical temperature of the super-critical fluid before the supercritical fluid contacts the solvent liquid and further comprising applying pressure pulses of at least one frequency to the gel, the solvent liquid and the supercritical extracting fluid during the exchange.

Certificate of Mailing (37 CFR 1.8a)

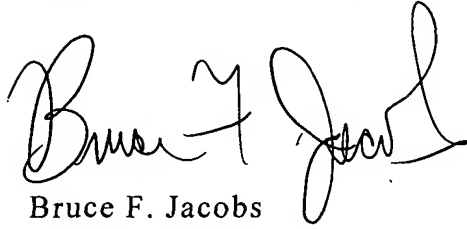
I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 7/16/03


Stephanie Segers

Claim 42, last line, delete "carbon dioxide" and insert --fluid--.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce F. Jacobs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" and last name "Jacobs" clearly distinguishable.

Bruce F. Jacobs

Reg. No. 26,184